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country, occasionally rugged, but frequently very good for stock and farming. From one of these hills they thought they saw an immense mountain to the east far above the clouds, and which the surveyor who went with him estimated at ten thousand feet high. In this hilly country they continued until they made the south coast, near to Cape Chatham; and, after enduring the extremes of hunger, they reached King George's Sound in February. The importance of these discoveries will readily appear to you. The effect upon the minds of the public here has been to remove all doubt as to the success of the colony. The river mentioned beyond the hills is, in winter, a very powerful stream, and the principal drain of that country as far as we know. Its source and ulterior course beyond the small part of it seen by us is at present unknown, and, I may add, defies conjecture; for we know, by a recent exploration of the coast to the south as far as latitude $28^{\circ} 40'$, that no river or inlet exists on it. This point of interest shall not be allowed to remain much longer in obscurity.

'The little settlement at King George's Sound being now made over to this government, I am shipping off some of those who are not prospering here to try their fortune there. The wish of my heart at present is to get a bush road made over to that place, passing through Bannister's fine tract, and also the possession of a few coasting vessels to keep up communication with the little settlement on the coast.

'P.S. We are just about establishing a botanical garden at Perth, in which it may be hoped that, besides collecting and arranging the plants of the country, experiments may be made as to acclimating foreign productions.'

VII.—*Union of the African Association, with the Royal Geographical Society of London.* Extracted from the Minutes of Council of the latter body, dated July 23, 1831.

'At a meeting of Council held this day, a communication was read from the Secretary of the African Association, intimating that the Members of that Society were willing to make over the balance of its funds in their hands to the Royal Geographical Society, and thus unite the two Societies, on condition that such of their number as were not already Members of the Royal Geographical Society, be received as such, without form of ballot, on paying the usual composition for entrance money and annual payments. On which it was unanimously resolved by the Council that this proposal be agreed to: that the following five Members of the African Association, viz. Lord Clive, Henry Banks, Esq., Charles Hoare, Esq., H. H. Hoare, Esq., and John Motteux,

Esq., be accordingly admitted forthwith to all the privileges of Members of the Royal Geographical Society, they not being already such, on their making payment as above; and that this act of Council be communicated to the Society at its first ordinary meeting, in November next, for its sanction and approval.'

VIII.—*Account of the Volcanic Island lately thrown up between Sicily and Pantellaria.* Extracted from Reports made by the British Cruizers to Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Hotham, K.C.B.; and communicated by John Barrow, Esq., F.R.S. With a Plate.

THE Neapolitan schooner, *Psyche*, appears first to have discovered smoke on the water where the island is now situated, on the 12th of July; and from the 13th to the 16th, this continued in three distinct columns, but without fire, as far as seen from a Sardinian vessel becalmed in the neighbourhood. On the 17th, the master of the brig, *Adelaide*, from London, distinguished fire also; and it is probable that at this period, for the first time, the land rose to the surface. On the following day, as will be seen by the annexed letter, it had already attained considerable dimensions:—

Report of Commander C. H. Swinburne, of His Majesty's Ship Rapid, to Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Hotham, K.C.B.

'His Majesty's Sloop, *Rapid*, at Malta, July 22, 1831.

'SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that on the 18th of July, 1831, at 4 P. M., the town of Marsala bearing by compass E. half N. 9 miles, I observed from on board his Majesty's sloop, *Rapid*, under my command, a high irregular column of very white smoke or steam, bearing S. by E. I steered for it, and continued to do so till 8, 15, P. M., when having gone about thirty miles by the reckoning, I saw flashes of brilliant light mingled with the smoke, which was still distinctly visible by the light of the moon.

'In a few minutes the whole column became black and larger: almost immediately afterwards several successive eruptions of lurid fire rose up amidst the smoke: they subsided, and the column then became gradually white again. As we seemed to near it fast, I shortened sail, and hove to till daylight, that I might ascertain its nature and exact position. During the night the changes from white to black, with flashes and the eruptions of fire, continued at irregular intervals, varying from half an hour to an hour. At daylight I again steered towards it, and about 5 A. M., when the smoke had for a moment cleared away at the base, I saw